Letters of Lilith

About Lilith

"I look at Lilith like this.
G-d gave Adam the perfect wife.
Adam whined and complained about her,
so G-d gave Adam a piece of himself."
--misha_somethingortheother

The figure of Lilith is the subject of many current social interests in today's world, but originally Lilith is a Jewish folk tale with mysterious origins that appear to reach back to Mesopotamia.

Lilith's myth is widely recognized as Adam's first wife, when they were created equally as described in Genesis 1:26 *"And God said: 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth'."* Although, I find it interesting to note that both Adam and Eve didn't make their official appearance until Genesis chapter two; so the passage may actually refer to Lilith and Samael as they are described as an androgynous pair. This is also outlined in Treatise on the Left Emanation.

Lilith's first official appearance as Adam's vengeful ex-wife was in the Alphabet of Ben Sira, a likely parody of Jewish folk tales and beliefs. Lilith was created as an equal with Adam, and when Adam demanded to be on top during sex; Lilith uttered the Ineffible Name of God and flew away to the Red Sea. Adam complained to God, who sent three angels to bring her back to Eden. Lilith refused, citing that God had created her to cause sickness to infants; and made a pact with the angels that she would not harm any infant who had the names of the angels written over the crib. However, this pact still cost Lilith a hundred of her own demonic children a day. This story is the reason why Lilith earned the figurative title "World's First Feminist" as she is the woman who sacrifices paradise, and many of her own children; than be forced to exist in a state of servitude.

While some assert that the Lilith myth was created in the Alphabet of Ben Sira; but I think it's more possible that the Alphabet may have parodied the story of Istahar, a flood story about a woman who uttered the Ineffible Name of God to escape sexual domination from angels. Regardless of questionable origin, Lilith was real enough to appear in amulets and in the Zohar - a compendium of Jewish mysticism and knowledge of the spirit realms.

The Zohar contributes the most to Lilith's mythology. The Zohar describes her as being the Serpent, being the wife of Sammael, being the wife of God himself also, and even originating from influences of angels. Lilith even appears in astrology, and associated with certain phases of the Moon, and the fixed star Algol.

May you enjoy reading about Lilith as much as I have enjoyed studying and compiling her myths.

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